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SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1791

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB - MRS. OAKLEY; THE HAGUE ALSO FOR A-DAY AND R-DAY.

1. 12356: DEC 1 MAY 24, 1988

TAGS: ASEC, MOPS, PINS, PINR, PROP, MOAP, JS, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT: MAY 16 - MAY 23, 1983

✓REF: KABUL 0814

1. (C.-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE USED IN BRIEFING THE PRESS, PROTECTING SOURCES WHERE INDICATED.

3. SUMMARY: KABUL REMAINED QUIET DURING THE THIRD WEEK OF MAY THOUGH THERE WAS SOME INCREASE IN POST-CURFEW GUNFIRE. REGIME SEARCHES OF VEHICLES FOR CONSCRIPTS, MUJAHIDEEN OR WEAPONS REMAINED A TRAFFIC HAZARD. EARLY IN THE WEEK A MAJOR TOPIC OF CONVERSATION IN KABUL WAS WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE QADER, THOUGH THE SPECTRUM OF RUMORS AND GOSSIP IS WIDE, IT APPEARS THAT QADER WAS BEATEN AND PUT IN THE HOSPITAL BY DEPUTY MINISTER SHAHJULLAH BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCE GENERATED BY PARHAM-KHALQ FRICTION WITHIN THE MINISTRY.

4. BASED ON REPORTS FROM MULTIPLE AFGHAN SOURCES, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT PANJSHIR VALLEY RESISTANCE LEADER MAS'UD AGREED TO A TRUCE WITH THE SOVIET SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. CURRENTLY THE REGIME AND SOVIET PRESENCE IN THE VALLEY IS SMALL, THE PASS IS OPEN, CROPS ARE BEING PLANTED, AND FOODSTUFF ARE ENTERING THE VALLEY IN LARGE QUANTITY. OUR SOURCES ARE NOT CLEAR ABOUT THE EXTENT OR DURATION OF THE TRUCE, THOUGH TWO SOURCES BELIEVE IT WILL COME UNSTUCK.
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AFTER THE FIRST CROPS ARE HARVESTED IN JULY, IT MAY BE, AS ONE SOURCE ASSERTS, THAT MAS'UD IS NOT ONLY REBUILDING HIS SUPPLY OF FOOD AND WEAPONS, BUT ATTEMPTING TO USE THE HIATUS IN FIGHTING TO UNIFY RESISTANCE OPERATIONS IN CENTRAL AND NORTHERN REGIONS, REGARDLESS OF MUJAHIDEEN AFFILIATIONS OUTSIDE AFGHANISTAN.

5. REPORTS OF A TRUCE IN GHAZNI APPEAR FALSE AS THERE HAS BEEN A RECENT INCREASE IN RESISTANCE ACTIONS IN AND NEAR THE CITY. IN EARLY MAY A REGIME FUEL AND AMMUNITIONS CONVOY WAS PINNED DOWN BY RESISTANCE FIRE FOR A DAY JUST WEST OF GHAZNI. IN THE SAME WEEK, A POLICE/MILITARY POST ON THE FRINGES OF THE CITY WAS ATTACKED

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DURING THE DAY, PROVOKING BOMBING REPRISALS AGAINST A NEARBY VILLAGE.

6. KANAR-E-SHARIF, THE LARGEST CITY IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN, HAS ALSO BEEN THE SITE OF INCREASED RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES. THE MOST DRAMATIC EVENT OF THE MONTH WAS THE BLOWING AWAY OF THE SHOP, HOUSE, FAMILY AND PERSON OF A FORMER RESISTANCE COMMANDER WHOSE DEFECTION TO THE REGIME WAS PART OF THE REGIME'S MEDIA SPECTACULAR SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. END SUMMARY.

7. KABUL ATMOSPHERICS: COMPARED TO EARLIER IN THE YEAR, KABUL REMAINED RELATIVELY PEACEFUL THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF MAY. LAST WEEK THERE WAS A SLIGHT INCREASE IN POST-CURFEW GUNFIRE. FOR SEVERAL NIGHTS EARLY IN THE WEEK PROLONGED EXCHANGES OF GUNFIRE WERE HEARD FROM TURBULENT KOTE SANGI NEIGHBORHOOD ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE CITY AND REGIME TRACERS MARKED THE SKY OVER THE KARTE SEH DISTRICT. NO ASSASSINATIONS HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION DURING THE WEEK. PATROLS OF SOLDIERS AND POLICE CONTINUE TO IMPEDE THE TRAFFIC FLOW BY PULLING OVER VEHICLES TO SEARCH FOR CONSCRIPTS AND WEAPONS. THE ELECTRICITY IS GOOD, SPARKING RUMORS THAT THE REGIME IS ONCE MORE TRYING TO PAY OFF VILLAGE HEADMEN IN AREAS TRAVERSED BY THE POWER LINES FROM THE HYDRO-GENERATING PLANTS IN THE KABUL GORGE AND BEYOND.

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17. THE SHOMALI. IN THE SHOMALI REGION JUST NORTH OF KABUL, THE
SOVIET/REGIME OFFENSIVE APPEARS TO HAVE WOUND DOWN SIMULTANEOUSLY

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HEALTH OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE: DURING THE WEEK KABUL WAS ABUZE WITH RUMORS CONCERNING THE STATE OF HEALTH OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE, LIEUTENANT GENERAL ABOL QADER. MOST GOSSIP AND REPORTS ASSERT THAT LAST WEEK HE WAS RECOVERATING FROM INJURIES SUSTAINED DURING AN ATTACK BY KHALQIS OR MUJAHIDEEN. THE UNOFFICIAL PARTY LINE APPEARS TO BE THAT HE WAS (AND MAY STILL BE) IN THE HOSPITAL WITH KIDNEY OR HEART TROUBLE. LIKE THE DEMISE OF THE COMMANDER OF I CORPS LAST YEAR, WE DOUBT THE FULL STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED TO QADER IN MID-MAY WILL EVER BE DEFINITELY KNOWN. GIVEN BELOW IS WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE THE MOST CREDIBLE STORY MAKING THE ROUNDS.

9. QADER WAS BEATEN UP IN HIS OFFICE BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE KHALILULLAH ON MAY 14 OR 15. PURPORTEDLY, KHALILULLAH HAD SULKED AT HOME FOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS OVER RECENT PROMOTIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS WITH THE MINISTRY WHICH FAVORED THE PARHAM FACTION OF THE POPA. AN ALTERNATE VERSION HAS IT THAT KHALILULLAH HAD BEEN STRIPPED OF SOME AUTHORITY BY QADER AND THIS WAS GENERALLY THOUGHT TO BE ANOTHER BLOW AGAINST THE KHALQ FACTION. REPORTEDLY, KHALILULLAH WENT TO QADER'S OFFICE, WORDS WERE EXCHANGED, THEN BLOW WERE STRUCK. THE STRONGER KHALILULLAH BEAT QADER UNCONSCIOUS, PUTTING HIM IN THE HOSPITAL WITH BROKEN RIBS AND HEAD INJURIES.

10. COMMENT: THOUGH WE CANNOT VOUCH FOR THE ABOVE ACCOUNT, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT, EXCEPT FOR THOSE FEW WHO ACCEPT THE UNOFFICIAL PARTY LINE, QADER'S TEMPORARY INCAPACITATION IS ALMOST UNIVERSALLY ATTRIBUTED TO KHALQ/PARHAM FRUITION. THOUGH QADER WAS ONCE A KHALQI, HE IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED PART OF THE PARHAM FACTION.
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CAMP, THOUGH HE IS NOT A STRONG PARTY MAN. LOGICALLY, HOWEVER, HE WOULD BE CONSIDERED THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY IN THE MND RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT PROMOTIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS SEEN TO REPRESENT PARHAM PENETRATION INTO WHAT WAS ONCE KHALQI TERRITORY.

11. TRUCE IN THE PANJSHER VALLEY: IN RECENT MONTHS THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL INDEPENDENT WESTERN MEDIA ACCOUNTS OF A TRUCE BETWEEN PANJSHER VALLEY JAMIAT-E-ISLAMI (JI) LEADER, AHMAD SHAH MAS'UD, AND THE SOVIET AND/OR DRA REGIME. THE ACCOUNT GIVEN BELOW, WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH SOME PRESS REPORTS WE HAVE SEEN, IS NOT DRAWN FROM JOURNALIST SOURCES BUT FROM MULTIPLE AFGHAN SOURCES.

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MOST OF THEM FROM THE VALLEY OR WITH RELATIVES THERE (PROTECT SCRUPULOUSLY). EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE NOTED, OUR SOURCES AGREE ON THE OUTLINES OF THE ACCOUNT GIVEN BELOW.

12. THERE IS A TRUCE IN THE PANUSHER VALLEY. IT WAS ARRIVED AT BETWEEN MAS'UD AND THE SOVIETS EARLY IN THE YEAR WITHOUT INVOLVEMENT OF THE DRA REGIME WHICH MAS'UD DOES NOT RECOGNIZE. IN FACT, MAS'UD REBUFFED VARIOUS REGIME ATTEMPTS TO MAKE CONTACT AND, ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, AN OFFER TO MAKE HIM GOVERNOR OF THE VALLEY. MAS'UD AGREED TO THE TRUCE ONLY AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE VALLEY'S RELIGIOUS AND VILLAGE LEADERS.

13. OUR SOURCE ARE NOT CLEAR OR DO NOT AGREE ON THE TERMS OF THE TRUCE. IT APPEARS TO HAVE INVOLVED SAFE PASSAGE OUT OF THE VALLEY FOR DEPARTING SOVIET AND REGIME TROOPS AND IMMUNITY FROM ATTACK FOR THE REMAINING REGIME AND SOVIET PERSONNEL. APPARENTLY THE ONLY POCKET OF REGIME/SOVIET PRESENCE IS NEAR ANAWA AND INVOLVES SEVERAL HUNDRED REGIME SOLDIERS AND NO MORE THAN 50 SOVIET ADVISORS WHO ARE NOT ALLOWED TO MOVE FREELY OUTSIDE THEIR HEAVY BUNKERED ENCAMPMENT. THE MAJORITY OF OUR SOURCES BELIEVE THAT THE TRUCE EXTENDS ONLY TO THE VALLEY ITSELF AND DOES LIMIT THE OUTSIDE OPERATION OF MAS'UD'S MOBILE UNITS.

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DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEAPAB - MRS. OAKLEY; THE HAGUE ALSO FOR A-LEAM AND B-LEAM.

ONE SOURCE STATED THAT HI FORCES HAVE BEEN ACTIVE NEAR SHARIKAR RECENTLY AND THAT OPERATIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN CARRIED ON IN KAPIRI, KHRISTIAN, AND THE SALANG SINCE THE TRUCE WAS CONCLUDED. ANOTHER SOURCE ATTRIBUTES RECENT RESISTANCE ACTIVITY IN QARABAGH TO THE SMALL TO HI FORCES LOYAL TO MAS'UD, THOUGH THIS IS DISPUTED BY A SMALL SOURCE (PROTECT) WHO ASSERTS THAT HEZB-E-ISLAMI (HI) FIGHTERS WERE INVOLVED. ALL SOURCES AGREE THAT IN APRIL HI FORCES FOUGHT HEZB-E-ISLAMI FORCES ENTRENCHED IN THE ANDARAB VALLEY NORTH OF PANUSHER, PERHAPS IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISLODGE THE HI. AS WE REPORTED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, HI FORCES REPORTEDLY INTERDICTED SUPPLIES TO THE PANUSHER VALLEY AND STOPPED SAHED JAGHLOU'S HAZARA FIGHTERS FROM ASSISTING MAS'UD DURING PANUSHER V AND VI.

14. THE DURATION OF THE TRUCE IS ALSO NOT KNOWN. ONE SOURCE EXPECTS THE TRUCE TO LAPSE AT THE END OF THE AFGHAN MONTH OF SARATAN (JULY 22) AND ANOTHER ANTICIPATES STEPPED UP ACTIVITY OUTSIDE OF AND/OR IN THE VALLEY AFTER THE FIRST CROPS ARE HARVESTED IN JULY. HOWEVER, A THIRD SOURCE BELIEVES THE TRUCE WILL HOLD THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER AND FALL.

15. CONDITIONS IN THE PANUSHER VALLEY: ALL SOURCES AGREE THAT THERE IS NO FIGHTING IN THE VALLEY, THAT THE ROAD THROUGH THE MOUTH OF THE VALLEY IS OPEN TO TRAFFIC, AND THAT CROPS ARE BEING PLANTED. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, ACCESS TO THE VALLEY IS CONTROLLED BY HI CHECKPOINTS, IN AND OUTSIDE THE VALLEY AND THAT HI EXIT PERMITS ARE NECESSARY TO LEAVE. ANOTHER SOURCE MAINTAINS THAT MAS'UD INSISTS ON PAYING FOR REGIME FERTILIZER AND FOODSTUFFS.
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SENT TO THE VALLEY AND THEN DISTRIBUTES THEM FREE OR AT LOW COST. BASIC FOODSTUFFS ARE AVAILABLE IN QUANTITY EXCEPT FOR KEROSENE AND OTHER FUELS.

16. MAS'UD'S TRUCE: COMMENT AND SPECULATION: WHAT MAS'UD IS UP TO IS NOT CLEAR. HE MAY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT A TRUCE WAS ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE PEOPLE WHO STAYED IN THE VALLEY AND THOSE WHO HAVE RETURNED TO RESUME ACTIVITIES SHATTERED BY THE BOMBARDMENTS OF PANUSHER V AND VI. HE MAY ALSO BE TRYING TO BUILD UP HIS STOCKS OF WEAPONS AND FOOD FOR ANOTHER OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE SOVIETS/RSBIME OR HIS HEZB-E-ISLAMI ADVERSARIES IN THE ANDARAB

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VALLEY. HE MAY EVEN BE USING THE HIATUS IN FIGHTING TO ATTEMPT TO COORDINATE MUJAHIDEEN EFFORTS. ONE SOURCE ASSERTS THAT HAS'UD SENT A LETTER IN AXFIL TO A NUMBER OF IN-COUNTRY RESISTANCE LEADERS PROPOSING UNITY OF GROUPS OPERATING WITHIN THE COUNTRY IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR PESHAWAR GROUP AFFILIATION. THOUGH WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION, THE SAME SOURCE SAYS THAT THERE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY A MEETING AT WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF HAZARA RESISTANCE COMMANDER SAYYI JAGHLAN, ZABIULLAH (THE JI LEADER IN MAZAR-E-SHARIF); FARID (AN HI (GULBUDDIN) COMMANDER IN THE CHARIKAR AREA), AND COCT HAS AGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL.

17. IN THE SHORT RUN, HOWEVER, MAS'UD APPEARS TO MANY OBSERVERS TO HAVE OPTED OUT OF THE WAR -- AT LEAST TEMPORARILY -- THUS PERMITTING BATTLE-HARDENED REGIME TROOPS TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE VALLEY FOR USE IN SPRING AND SUMMER OFFENSIVES ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY. FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW, THE TRUCE APPEARS TO BE A CONSIDERABLE POLITICO-MILITARY SUCCESS FOR THE SOVIETS AND THE REGIME. HOWEVER, MAS'UD HAS SUCCESSFULLY AND REPEATEDLY STOOD OFF THE SOVIETS, BARGAINED WITH THEM DIRECTLY WITHOUT THE REGIME AS AN INTERMEDIARY, AND GAINED SIGNIFICANT LOCAL AUTONOMY. THESE CANNOT BE SOURCES OF COMFORT TO THE SOVIETS OR THE REGIME. IT IS AS POSSIBLE THAT THE TRUCE IS FRAGILE FROM BOTH SIDES. THERE IS, FOR INSTANCE, CURRENTLY AN UNCONFIRMED, REPEAT UNCONFIRMED, REPORT THAT A SIZEABLE BODY OF REGIME TROOPS ARE MOVING TOWARD THE PANJSHER VALLEY. HOWEVER, IF THE REPORT IS TRUE, IT

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IS MORE LIKELY THAT THE TROOPS ARE TO BE USED IN THE CONTINUING CAMPAIGNS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SHOMALI REGION SOUTH OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE VALLEY.

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18. GHAZNI: THOUGH RUMORS PERSIST THAT SOME SORT OF TRUCE HAS BEEN STRUCK BETWEEN THE SOVIETS/REGIME AND HAZARA RESISTANCE COMMANDER SAYYED JAGHLAN, SEVERAL SOURCES WITH GHAZNI CONNECTIONS (PROTECT) ASSERT THAT THE RESISTANCE IS INCREASINGLY ACTIVE IN THAT AREA. CITY STREETS EMPTY OUT BY MID-AFTERNOON AND THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN DAYLIGHT ASSASSINATIONS.

19. CONVOY ATTACKS NEAR GHAZNI, WHICH ARE COMMON OCCURRENCES, HAVE BECOME EVEN MORE FREQUENT. JUST WEST OF THE CITY A FUEL AND AMMUNITION CONVOY WITHOUT AIR COVER WAS ATTACKED MAY 3 BY JAGHLAN'S FORCES. RATHER THAN THE USUAL HIT AND RUN SHIRMISH, THE BATTLE LASTED THROUGH THE NIGHT, AND BROKE OFF ONLY WHEN REGIME REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED THE NEXT MORNING. SEVERAL FUEL TRUCKS WERE BURNED AND, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, ABOUT 5 APC'S WERE DESTROYED OR DISABLED. CASUALTIES ON EACH SIDE ARE NOT KNOWN.

20. IN EARLY MAY DURING BROAD DAYLIGHT, MUJAHIDEEN ATTACKED A MILITARY POST JUST BEYOND THE FRINGES OF THE CITY, REPORTEDLY KILLING OR INJURING SEVERAL REGIME SOLDIERS. IN REPRISAL, THE NEXT DAY THE NEAREST VILLAGE WAS ATTACKED BY SEVERAL HELICOPTERS USING "LARGE BOMBS" WHICH LEFT GAPING CRATERS. ACCORDING TO ONE OF OUR SOURCES, THERE HAS BEEN A SLIGHT INCREASE IN THE SOVIET TROOPS PRESENCE IN THE AREA, THOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR OPERATIONS IN THE CITY ITSELF, NOR BOMBING OF THE COUNTRY-SIDE OR THE SCALE OF THE DESTRUCTION AROUND HERAT.

21. ACCORDING TO TRAVELLERS, THE ROAD BETWEEN GHAZNI AND KABUL IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY HAZARDOUS BOTH FOR REGIME CONVOYS AND PRIVATE
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TRAVELLERS. ON HOT SPOT IS THE TOWN OF MAIDAN SHAR, JUST SOUTH OF KABUL. ONE LOCAL SOURCE (PROTECT) REPORTS THAT THERE HAS RECENTLY BEEN AN INFUX OR RETURN OF WELL ARMED MUJAHIDEEN TO THE TOWN. ON MAY 20 A REGIME CONVOY WHICH DID NOT HAVE AIR COVER WAS ATTACKED JUST SOUTH OF THE TOWN, RESULTING IN THE DESTRUCTION OF LOCAL TRUCKS AND WITH SOME CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES.

22. MAZAR-E-SHARIF: ACCORDING TO RECENT TRAVELLERS, THE SECURITY SITUATION FROM THE REGIME VIEWPOINT HAS DETERIORATED AGAIN THE PAST MONTH IN THE MAJOR CITY IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN, MAZAR-E-SHARIF. THE CITY STREETS EMPTY AT DUSK AND THE NUMBER OF

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ASSASSINATIONS OF REGIME PERSONNEL OR SUSPECTED SYMPATHIZERS HAS BEEN INCREASING. THE MOST DRAMATIC RECENT INCIDENT WAS THE ASSASSINATION OF A FORMER HAKKAT-E-ISLAMI COMMANDANT WHO WAS AMONG THOSE FEATURED IN THE REGIME MEDIA SPECTACULAR ON DEFECTING MUJAHIDEEN THIS SPRING. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, THE FORMER COMMANDANT WAS REWARDED BY BEING APPOINTED "MUCLESWAL" (DISTRICT OFFICER) IN ONE OF THE DISTRICTS OF BALKH PROVINCE. HOWEVER, LOCAL ANTI-PATHY WAS SUCH THAT HE WAS FORCED TO MOVE TO MAZAR WHERE HE TOOK UP RESIDENCE IN THE BAZAAR BEHIND A SHOP HE OPENED WITH REGIME FUNDS. IN THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY, A DAY-LIGHT BOMB DESTROYED SHOP, HOUSE, EX-COMMANDANT AND FAMILY.

23. THE SHOMALI: THE FEW REPORTS WE HAVE HAD FROM THE SOUTHERN HALF OF THE SHOMALI REGION, INDICATE THAT INTERMITTENT SHELLING OF VILLAGES CONTINUES THOUGH THERE WAS NOT WIDESPREAD BOMBING DURING THE WEEK. COMPARED TO THE BOMBING SORTIES AGAINST THE REGION FLOWN LAST SUMMER AND FALL, THERE HAS BEEN LESS BOMBING OF FIELDS, ORCHARDS AND LIVESTOCK. THE ROAD REMAINS OPEN AND THERE ARE CREDIBLE REPORTS OF TRAVELLERS BEING LOOTED ON THE MAID HIGHWAY BY SOVIET SOLDIERS. FIRING UPON PEDESTRIANS AND PRIVATE VEHICLES, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO BE LIMITED TO THE SIDE ROADS.

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1795
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY CHAKA
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USIA WASHDC 451
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USJNATC
USMISSION USJN NEW YORK
USCINCENT MACDILL AFB FL//POLAD//
USCINCEUR Vaihingen GE
FT BRAGG NC AFVS/POE/SS
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCSAFEUR HEIDELBERG GE
HQS SAFE RAMSTEIN AFB GE
USNMR SHAPE GE//INTAF//
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2//

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR USDAO;
DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB - MRS. CAKLEY; THE HAGUE ALSO

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FOR A-DAY AND R-CAM.

24. FARTHER NORTH, THERE WAS HEAVY HELICOPTER BOMBING OF THE MARKET TOWN OF DARABAGH JUST WEST OF THE HIGHWAY. OUR REPORTS INDICATE THAT THERE WAS A RESISTANCE ATTACK ON A MILITARY POST NEAR DARABAGH ON MAY 14 OR 15 THAT PURPORTEDLY RESULTED IN THE DESTRUCTION OF SEVERAL APC'S. OUR SOURCES ATTRIBUTE THE ACTION VARIOUSLY TO HEZB-E-ISLAMI OR JAMIAT-E-ISLAMI MUJAHIDEEN. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE BOMBING WAS A RESULT OF THE ATTACK.

25. NANGARHAR PROVINCE: THOUGH JALA-ABAD REMAINS RELATIVELY TRANQUIL, THERE ARE SEVERAL REPORTS OF RESISTANCE ACTIONS IN NANGARHAR PROVINCE. A CONVOY WAS AMBUSHED MAY 17 AND 5 TRUCKS REPORTEDLY DESTROYED AT DARUNTA, NEAR THE HIGHWAY JUST WEST OF JALA-ABAD. IN THE KHOSIANI AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE CITY, MUJAHIDEEN SURROUNDED A GROUP OF REGIME SOLDIERS ON MAY 16. AS THE RESISTANCE FIGHTERS HAD BLOCKED THE ROAD, SUPPLIES AND AMMUNITION HAD TO BE FLOWN BY HELICOPTER TO THE SOLDIERS WHO CAME UNDER HEAVY RESISTANCE MORTAR FIRE. THE RESULT OF THE ENGAGEMENT IS NOT YET KNOWN.

26. FOR THE RECORD: SHEWAKI ASSASSINATION: LAST WEEK WE REPORTED THAT THE MALIK OF THE VILLAGE OF SHEWAKI, SOUTH OF KABUL NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO THE LOGAR VALLEY, HAD BEEN KILLED, PRESUMABLY BY THE RESISTANCE. WE HAVE RECEIVED FURTHER, MORE DETAILED INFORMATION THAT CONTRADICTS THAT ACCOUNT. ACCORDING TO A LOCAL SOURCE (STRICTLY PROTECT), THE MAN IN QUESTION WAS NOT ACTUALLY A REGIME SYMPATHIZER BUT HAD BEEN FORCED TO ACCEPT THE POST BY THE DRA. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO HE WAS TAKEN FOR POLICE QUESTIONING AFTER IT HAD COME TO LIGHT THAT HE HAD GIVEN A DINNER FOR PERSONS THE REGIME SUSPECTED WERE MUJAHIDEEN. ON MAY 13 SEVERAL MEN IN PLAIN CLOTHES CAME TO THE MALIK'S HOME AND ASKED
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HIM TO COME WITH THEM. THE NEXT DAY HE WAS FOUND STRANGLED NEAR A LOCAL RELIGIOUS SHRINE. THOUGH THE IDENTITY OF THE MEN WHO LED HIM AWAY IS NOT DEFINITELY KNOWN, SOME VILLAGERS SUSPECT THAT THEY WERE KHAD. (FYI: SHEWAKI IS THE HOME OF SABRAK KARYA, WHOSE FAMILY MOVED FROM THE VILLAGE TO KABUL YEARS AGO.)
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